

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

While nearly all the states and the District of Columbia have embraced academic standards as a primary means for improving public education, none has a coordinated system that links all the pieces, according to an evaluation by the American Federation of Teachers.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=10stand.h21>

Philadelphia public schools could become the largest privatization site in the country if the state takes over the system. Edison Schools Inc. is the likely firm that will take the helm of the city's schools. <http://www.edweek.com/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=10philly.h21>

Funding Sources

Please check the NDPC/N Web site <http://www.dropoutprevention.org> for new links to funding sources and grant writing tips. Click on Resource Materials and then on Grant Resources.

The Foundation's Community Action Grants provide up to \$10,000 to support innovative school and/or community-based programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Women of color and women from other underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. (Deadline: January 15, 2002). <http://www.aauw.org/3000/fdnfelgra/cag.html>

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' Education Trust Offers Grants for Math Teachers. The Trust is currently accepting applications for Toyota's Investment in Mathematics Excellence (Toyota TIME). Toyota TIME grants of up to \$10,000 each will be awarded to up to 35 U.S. teachers in grades K-12. (Deadline: January 10, 2002.). <http://www.nctm.org/about/toyota/>

MetLife Foundation Tri-Connecting Award honors initiatives across the United States that strengthen connections among students, teachers, and parents with their communities to promote student learning and success. (Deadline: January 11, 2002). <http://www.familiesandwork.org/metlife>

Policy Updates

This policy brief reviews some of the assumptions, tensions, and lessons in the current accountability movement as well as the progress states have made in implementing their accountability policies. <http://www.seidl.org/policy/insights/n11/>

A group representing the nation's school superintendents says President Bush's education bill places too many demands on schools without providing enough money for those with low-income students. The American Association of School Administrators will not support the measure. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2001/11/08/national1444EST0657.DTL>

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal

"Communities at Work: A Guidebook of Strategic Interventions for Community Change" outlines six interventions that local education funds have successfully used to create lasting systemic change in public school districts. <http://www.publiceducation.org/interventions/>

Whole-School Projects Show Mixed Results. Comprehensive reform "much harder than any of us expected," says Hank Levin. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=10memphis.h21>

Community Collaboration

This article summarizes an investigation of the relationship between middle school programs to involve families and the resulting strength of the sense of community in the schools.

http://www.principals.org/news/bltn_prac_cond1001.html

Suggestions are offered on how middle and high school principals can recruit and actively involve parent and community volunteers at school sites to nurture the academic success of culturally and economically diverse community groups.

http://www.principals.org/news/bltn_rcrt_vlntrs1001.html

Early Childhood Education

From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development Executive Summary. National Research Council, Institute of Medicine.

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/9824.html>

The Future of Children: Caring for Infants and Toddlers summarizes the latest research and policy developments surrounding how young children are cared for in the United States.

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/homepage2824/index.htm>

Instructional Technologies

The General Services Administration donates surplus federal computer equipment to schools and educational nonprofits, giving special consideration to those with the greatest need. Application deadline is ongoing. <http://www.computers.fed.gov>

In awarding a \$10 million grant for the development of an online teacher certification program to the Western Governor's University (WGU), the U.S. Department of Education hopes the Internet will play a significant part in rebuilding the profession's population. The fully online college will offer prospective and existing K-12 teachers a chance to earn degrees and expand their expertise in several major subject areas. <http://www.eschoolnews.org/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=3178>

Resources & Tools

High School Graduation Rates in the United States by Jay P. Greene calls the National Center for Education Statistics to task for the way it reports graduation rates.

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_baeo.htm

National Center for Education Statistics *Dropout Rates in the United States:2000* (NCES 2002-114) is now available online. You may want to do your own comparison with Dr. Greene's report.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002114>

NCES' new School District Demographics Website provides access to school district demographic data useful for describing and analyzing characteristics of school districts, children, and K-12 education. <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sdds/>

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is recognized internationally.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/education/newsid_1667000/1667161.stm

Position Openings at the National Dropout Prevention Center

Assistant Director and Associate Director <http://www.dropoutprevention.org>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. We are in the process of redesigning the Web site to make it more user friendly and we need your suggestions. Please complete the user survey on the Web site <http://www.dropoutprevention.org>

Sources: ED Week, eSN School Technology Alert, Manhattan Institute, NCES, NEGP, PEN Weekly, and SMHP